



ANTHROPOLOGICAL METHODS FOR STUDYING HEALTH

ANTHP 40105

Professor Stephanie Levy – Tues and Thurs 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM – Rm 717 HN

This course will provide students with the methodological tool belt for conducting health-related research in global contexts outside of the university setting. Students will learn methods for characterizing various aspects of human biological variation, such as growth and development, nutrition, and adaptation. Additionally, we will discuss the ways in which social, economic and ecological contexts shape health and disease risk. In particular, this course aims to achieve two learning goals. First, students will learn practical skills for conducting field methods through hands-on experience. Emphasis will be placed on minimally-invasive methods, such as body composition measurements, dried bloodspot collection, and nutritional adequacy assessment. These methods can be applied to a range of cultural and ecological contexts and can be easily adopted by studies in fields outside of anthropology, such as public health, sociology, economics, and psychology. Second, the course will teach students how to design a research project through in-depth analysis of peer-reviewed research articles and through the production of individual research grant proposals.



ANTHC 20900: People and Culture of Europe

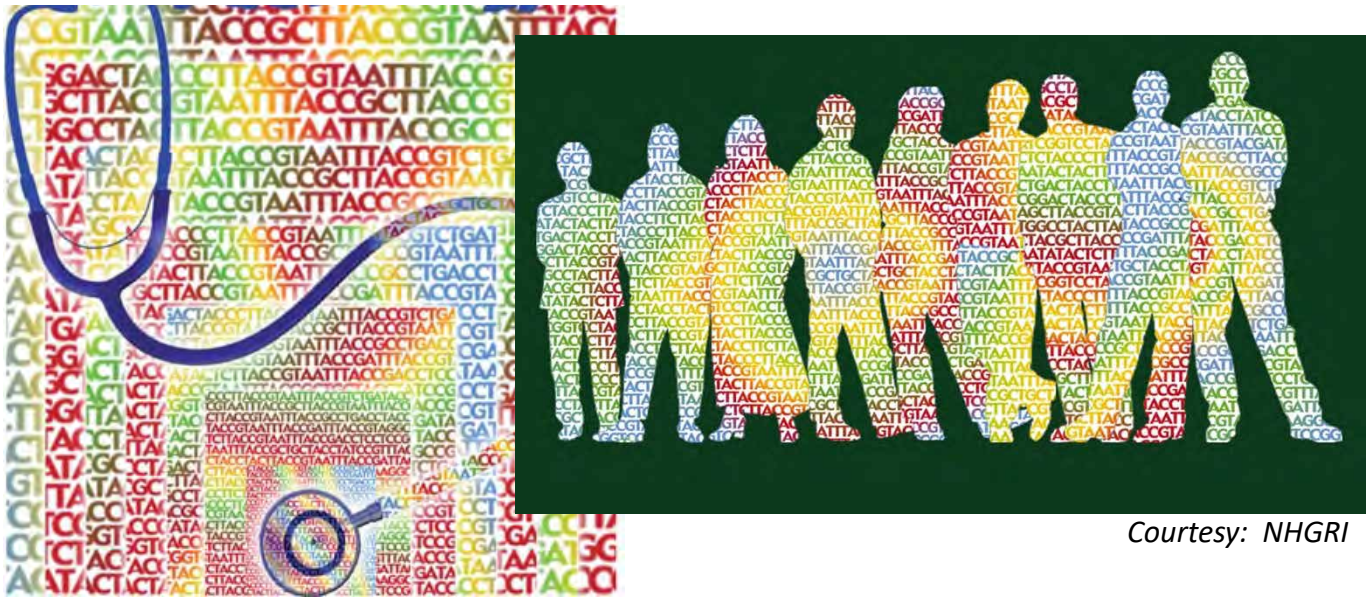
Instructor Julian Aron Ross

Mo/We 11:30-12:45

Demographic changes, the return of war/rearmament, shifting borders, and global challenges to economic affluence—Europe is once again in the grips of seismic transformations. But how does one define “Europe”, anyway? Is it the birthplace of modernity and the global exemplar of liberal democracy/free trade? The westward peninsula of a larger Eurasian continent arbitrarily divided from its eastern neighbors? Or does Europe refer to the early benefactors of colonialism’s ill-gotten gains?

In this class, we will be examining these questions from an anthropological perspective. Special attention will be given to European anthropology considering questions of migration, race/ethnicity, religion/religious minorities, and the life (and afterlife) of the Socialist East.

ANTHP 40149 Applied Bioinformatics and Health



Courtesy: NHGRI

Professor: Christina Costa

Spring 2026

Monday/Wednesday 10:00 - 11:15 AM

HN 717

Course Description

Bioinformatics uses computational methods to address biological questions. This upper-level course will focus on human and to a lesser extent non-human primate genomics, molecular anthropology, and health-related applications. Topics include an introduction to online databases, sequence alignment, UNIX for next generation sequencing (NGS) analysis, variant calling, phylogenetics including microbial evolution and public health surveillance, and statistical analysis, data manipulation, and visualization in R. Emphasis will be on gaining familiarity with common tools, resources, and best practices including ethical considerations in genomics research. We will explore key topics like human genome variation, disease genomics, and genetic ancestry using publicly available datasets. Students will learn through weekly short lectures, topical and conceptual readings, and practical experience gained during hands-on tutorials. Assignments will provide opportunities to apply and reinforce new skills. Basic knowledge of molecular biology is recommended. No formal programming skills are needed, but students will need access to R and command-line interface on their computer.

ANTHC 426.59 - ARCHAEOLOGY OF [NATIVE] NORTH AMERICA

Spring 2026 Monday 5:30-8:00 PM Room 710 HN

Professor: William J. Parry

This course provides an overview of the prehistoric archaeology of the continental United States (excluding the west coast). We will study the lifeways of ancient Native Americans, from their first migration into the New World up until the time of European contact. Special emphasis will be placed on the native peoples of three specific regions – the Southwest, the Midwest, and the New York City area – as case studies of adaptations to different environments. We will also examine several unresolved controversies surrounding the first entry of humans into the New World, the transition to agriculture, the development of complex forms of sociopolitical organization, and the impact of European colonization.

NOTE: This is not an introductory course. It is recommended that you take a general Introduction to Archaeology (such as ANTHC 126 or equivalent) before taking this course.



MODEL OF INDIAN LIFE AT INWOOD, MANHATTAN
BY NED C. BURNS

Archaeology of Colonialism

Spring 2026 Anthc 42660
Hunter College, Department of Anthropology



In his artwork “Shadow of the Land” Nicholas Galanin, an artist of Tlingit-Unangax̂ descent, “excavated” the shadow of the James Cook monument in Sydney as a remembrance of Cook’s colonial exploits and a provocation for the future toppling and burial of the adjacent Cook monument.

Faculty: Megan Hicks

Meeting time:

Room:

Archaeology possesses a unique ability to transcend the written historical record and gather diverse kinds of histories that may be overlooked or intentionally hidden. Archaeologists reveal the conditions of colonialism through studies of the material worlds that result from - and are instruments of - colonial relations. This includes cultural responses and resistance to these regimes. In this course, we will use archaeology as a tool to understand how colonial encounters have transformed every place on earth, locating these histories from the functionalities of Caribbean plantation spaces, to Maroon settlements in North America, to the anticolonial social practices in the Pacific Northwest. We will work to understand how colonial trajectories have led to our current, cumulative crises from enforced inequalities to ecological destruction.

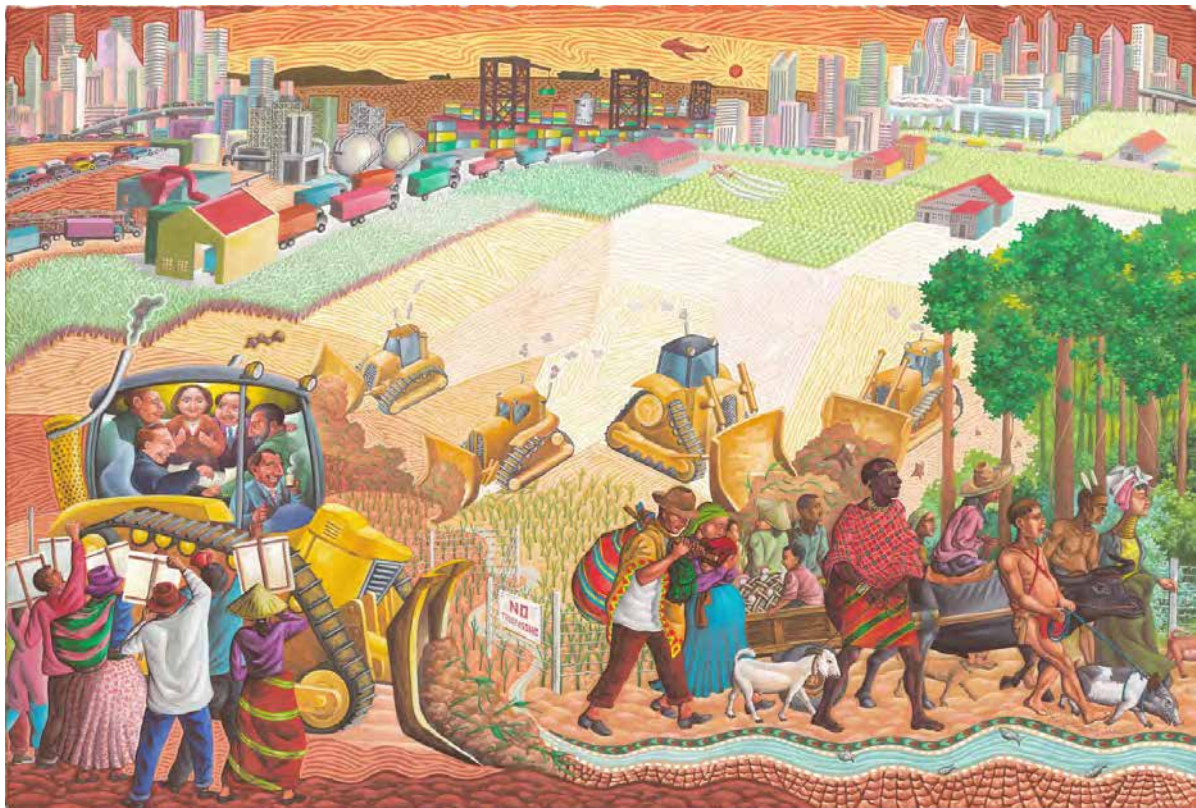
ANTHROPOLOGY 309.00

COUNTRYSIDE AND CITY

Marc Edelman

Thursdays, 5:30pm, Room: TBA

The “polycrisis” of linked environmental, economic, geopolitical, and health crises has forced scholars and policymakers to reexamine how rural people relate with each other and with nearby and distant urban areas and social groups. Using cases and comparative studies from around the world, this course analyzes rural poverty and wealth, rural-urban migration, uneven urban and rural development, class relations in the countryside, common property and private property, contemporary and historical land grabbing and agrarian reform, industrial vs. sustainable agriculture, climate change, world trade and fair trade, peasant and farmer social movements, and authoritarianism’s impacts and support in rural areas. Social scientists and agrarian radicals used to speak of “peasant society” and “the agrarian question.” This course will ask not one but many “agrarian questions” in order to appreciate the tremendous complexity of the categories that are part of the received social scientific wisdom— whether “peasants,” “landowners,” or “urban” or “rural culture.”



“Land grabs” by Filipino artist Boy Domínguez (used with permission of *Journal of Peasant Studies*)

Economy and Culture

ANTHC 30400

Instructor: Aman Roy **Time:** Mon & Wed 2:30 – 3:45 PM **Location:** HN 717



Since the financial crisis of 2008, economists realized that not every economic decision was rational, based on a supposed universal logic of maximization of benefits. Rather, humans are motivated by many other factors, including culture. For example, is capitalism the same in every part of the world? How did fear and excitement organize speculation over housing markets in the 2000s, and who gets to benefit from it? Aside from strangling the future, what does debt create when family members lend money or credit cards to each other? How can we quantify the labor that nature does for free, like pollinating bees or milking cows? How does migration, race and gender impact wage distribution? Why was cryptocurrency a fever and a promise a few years ago? How did the Silicon Valley and the startups hype become a model for developing economies all around the world? This course aims to answers these and other questions by exploring the multi-layered relationship between economic systems and cultural practices, both in the US and in other parts of the world.

Spring 2026

ANTHC 33000 Food and Culture

Professor Jonathan H. Shannon
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-3:45 PM



We've all heard the truism: "You are what you eat." But are we also how we eat and how we procure what we eat? In an era of industrial food production and global climate change, we may need to ask what we *should* eat in order to meet the challenges of food security and sustainable development. This seminar explores what the study of food can teach us about individual and community identities. How do patterns in the production, distribution, and consumption of food promote such subjectivities as race, class, gender, and nation? How can asking what to eat serve as a vehicle for understanding the construction of such categories? How do scholars in various disciplines research local foodways in the context of the global food system? How do the ethics of individual food choice relate to the world's food systems. From the global Slow Food movement to novel approaches to food security and sovereignty, what are the cultural politics of food? Is responsible eating a privilege or a human right? Finally, what is food's future in a world marked by increasing inequality, social injustice, and the devastating consequences of climate change? This course will investigate the interrelationships among food, culture, and politics. It does so in three parts. Part 1 explores food from an anthropological perspective, addressing such topics as food preferences and taboos, food and the senses, food symbolism, and the relationship of food to identities. Part 2 explores the political economy of food in industrial societies, with a focus on global food commodities and industrial agriculture. Finally, Part 3 explores the contradictions of fast food, labor, and hunger in an era of superabundance and climate change. The end result will be a richer understanding of the role of food in our everyday experience.

Gender in Anthropological Perspective

ANTHC 30100-01

Eva Steinberg

Monday and Wednesday, 1-2:15



<https://wilton.com/surprise-gender-reveal-baby-shower-cake/wlproj-8612/?srsltid=AfmBOootAoDaaVG0SiCeLkCERmT4YIvpi2uwFFea3AhkLi3EDzqeQV3V>

Course Description:

This course traces anthropological, historical, theoretical, and political conceptualizations of gender and sexuality. Taking a cross-cultural approach, this course delves into the complexities of gender, sex, and sexuality as they form and frame humans' social, cultural, and political worlds. Drawing on literature from anthropology, sociology, history, political science, geography, and feminist and queer theory, this course will investigate meanings of gender and sexuality as they shape and are shaped by race, class, science, and colonialism. By the end of the semester, each student will be expected to analyze a book related to their interests through the lens of gender using texts from the course.

Health and Humanitarianism

ANTHC 32014-01
(37616)

Mo 5:30PM - 8:15PM

Instructor: Dr. Sanaullah Khan



Source: United Nations Relief and Works Agency

Description: The course takes a critical perspective on humanitarianism, examining the global relations and inequalities that sustain cycles of injury and conflict around the world. It also critically engages with the epidemiology of war, focusing on the deaths that are rendered invisible in the representations of conflict. Furthermore, the course explores the paradoxes of humanitarianism—how benevolence is often accompanied by punishment or conditionalities imposed on countries and communities in distress. By doing so, it provides students with a global perspective on conflict, displacement, and rehabilitation, preparing them for successful careers in global public health and non-governmental organizations.



History of Anthropological Theory

Wednesdays 5:30-8:15 ♦ Prof. Creed

Theories can be nebulous things. In some subfields of anthropology there is consensus around a unifying theory, such as the theory of evolution. In other subfields, various opposing theories co-exist and compete. Some of these theories offer compelling arguments to explain cultural variation and dynamics, while others offer reasons to eschew explanation altogether. Anthropologists often propose theories explicitly, but other times a theoretical school of thought comes together organically and is more identifiable in retrospect. Some Anthropologists adhere to a singular theoretical model, while others are comfortable combining divergent paradigms. It's a lot! But it's also exciting and inspiring.

This course takes a look at the lively theoretical exchanges and debates over the past 150 years of Anthropology. It focuses primarily on intellectual developments in Europe and the United States during the 20th century. It will reveal what questions and ideas drove the discipline, how theoretical arguments collectively advance anthropological knowledge, how foundational questions continue to shape anthropology today and how prior interests and approaches resurface in new forms.



SPRING 2026

**LANGUAGE &
BODY**

ANTHC 320.02
[5478]

Tue & Thurs
4:00-5:15PM
HN 717

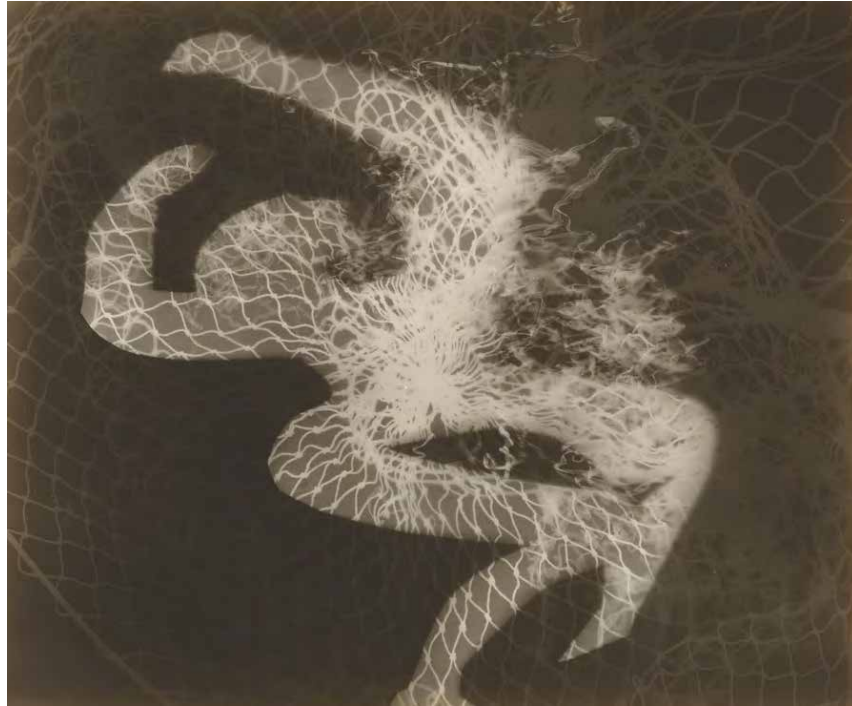
Instructor:
Ignasi Clemente
Pesudo



The human body –and more general, the materiality of bodies and objects– is at the center of much contemporary research. After a period during which the body was peripheral, implicit, or analytically invisible in discourse-focused social sciences, we now encounter terms such as multimodality, multisemiosis, corporeality, intersubjectivity, bodily inscription, and lived worlds and embodied experiences.

In social studies of language, linguistic communication becomes one among multiple resources for meaning making, and is analyzed in coordination with eye gaze, gesture, prosody, object manipulation, and body orientation, posture, and movement. Even the senses, such as tactility, are beginning to make their way into studies of communication. Exploring this exciting new frontier, students in this class will be introduced to corporeal “turn” in the social sciences as well as learn how to analyze the different communicative modalities found in human interaction.

ANTHC 30500
Psychological Anthropology
Instructor: Ana Badue
TuTh 10-11:15
Spring 2026



Ei-Q (Hideo Sugita), Untitled from Reason of Sleep, 1936

This course invites students to connect psychological and subjective experiences to social phenomena. We will explore several themes such as collective trauma, dreams, madness, and the medicalization of mental states, keeping in mind their social determinants. How do capitalism, racism, gender inequalities, and other forms of historical oppression and exploitation shape the ways we date, sleep, behave, suffer, form attachments?

Beyond the influence of social structures on our inner lives, contemporary social dynamics are deeply reliant on affects and emotions. This course creates space to think, for example, how social media platforms are designed to grab our attention, or how our boredom is commodified by streaming services. Finally, we will explore psychological knowledge, practices, and techniques – including theories of child development, psychoanalytic therapy, and behavioral treatments – considering how they are embedded in social practices.

Race, Culture, Power

ANTHC 31300: Professor Jacqueline Nassy Brown

Thursdays, 5:30--8:15, 717 North



"People protesting against police violence and racism in Sao Paulo, Brazil", *Reuters*.



"Kemi Badenoch: UK Conservatives' new leader fighting 'left-wing nonsense'", *Al Jazeera*

Race is a socio-political force not only in the U.S., but in many societies around the world. As well, race has many dimensions, such as racialization, racial subjectivity and identity, racial formation, and anti-racism. These phenomena are often at root in social issues such as criminalization, citizenship politics, grassroots movements, among many others. Race also undergirds the ways other axes of power (such as gender, nation and class) structure societies around the world. This course will explore such issues cross-culturally, while also striving to impart an appreciation for the ways that ethnography--the defining method and tool of cultural anthropology--offers unique insights into an understanding of race in its myriad dimensions and expressions worldwide.

Spring 2026

ANTHC 31400

Research Design in Anthropology

Or, Zen and the Art of Fieldwork

Professor Jonathan H. Shannon
Thursdays 5:30-8:15 PM



Photos from Prof. Shannon's field research.

Description

Ethnography is a core research method and one of the defining contributions of anthropology to the modern social sciences. Ethnography or field research is the descriptive analysis of a culture or subculture based on firsthand experience. This course introduces students to the basic methods of ethnographic research, from observation and interviews, to documentation and qualitative analysis, to writing and presenting anthropological research. Students will conduct ethnographic research individually and in teams; learn analog and digital tools for data collection and analysis; and practice writing the results for a variety of audiences. Moreover, students will learn the ethical and political dimensions of field research.

This course is designed for undergraduate students in the Department of Anthropology as well as for anyone wishing to acquire field research skills. The skills taught in this course are valuable not just to those planning field work, but also in many of the professions available to students of anthropology and the social sciences, from UX research, consulting, and marketing to outreach, social work, and zoos!

